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# Advocate of Peace.

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## Public Opinion and the Arbitration Treaties.

As we go to press with the January issue of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* there is scarcely a doubt that the pending arbitration treaties will be ratified by the Senate without serious change. The uprising of public sentiment throughout the country in their favor has been most extraordinary. Day after day, since Congress reassembled in December, petitions, memorials, and letters urging ratification have poured in upon the Senate in such numbers as that body has rarely seen in connection with any public measure. The *Congressional Record* bears witness on this point. Some days twenty, thirty, and even forty petitions have been presented by Senators, and every day brings its quota. Many of these come from churches, clubs, chambers of commerce, large associations, public meetings, etc., and thus the voice of

tens and even hundreds of thousands of citizens is represented in them. The public press bears equally striking witness. It is rare that any paper opposes the treaties or even suggests any serious amendments. Seven-tenths, we are sure, of the daily and weekly journals are strong in their support of the treaties. Such a consensus of the newspapers in favor of any project is as encouraging as it is rare. The churches also, representing in the aggregate more than 50 millions of the people, have been and are, with increasing earnestness, uttering their plea for ratification.

The public mass meetings organized by the Citizens' National Committee in many cities, or spontaneously by the citizens, have been no less impressive and significant. The greatest halls obtainable have been crowded to their full capacity, and in a number of instances large numbers have been unable to obtain entrance. The meeting held in the Hall of the Americas, Washington, D. C., December 8, at which the President was the chief speaker, gathered together such an audience as even the National Capital does not often witness. (The full stenographic report of the speeches made at this meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue.) The great meeting in Carnegie Hall, New York, which packed that vast auditorium with nearly five thousand people; the Academy of Music meeting in Philadelphia, reported to have been "magnificent;" the meeting at Atlanta, with an audience of nearly five thousand, and the meetings already held in twenty or more other important cities, with their throngs of eager listeners, have all borne testimony to the intense interest of the people in the fate of the treaties.

The testimony of these immense gatherings, which is being enforced by smaller ones in many small cities and towns, is not weakened in the least by the breaking up of the Carnegie Hall meeting in New York by a band of about fifty anti-treaties rioters. Shameful as this riot was, showing the desperate straits into which the opponents of the treaties have been brought, it did not prevent the great audience from expressing itself with overwhelming emphasis in favor of the treaties. There has been nothing like this riot anywhere else, and its occurrence has only served to bring out the friends of the treaties throughout the nation in fuller numbers and more perfect unanimity. It has also served to reveal the fact that the Germans reported to be opposed to the treaties are few in number and far between, the only German who exhibited himself in the New York riot being the man who presented the opposing resolution. Our German friends have discovered—most of them always knew it—that the pretense that these treaties are a scheme to bring the United States and Great

Britain into united opposition to Germany is entirely without foundation, and in the final count it is now certain that those of our people who are of German origin will be found lined up almost solidly on the side of the President.

These great public meetings and their expression of the general feelings of the country will continue until the final action of the Senate is taken. This we shall await with the greatest interest and with certain hope.

### New Year's Hopes and Fears.

Our warmest greetings and best wishes to all the friends of peace in this and all lands.

There are some clouds on the world's political horizon as 1912 comes in. The wretched war in Tripoli still drags on, and adds its daily proof that the heart of war is base and cruel and can never be changed. The trouble in Persia goes from bad to worse, and it looks now as if that ancient nation would be crushed to death by the action and the inaction of powers which make loud professions of Christianity at Christmas time, and then go on with their schemes of greed and plunder as if Jesus Christ had never been heard of. The civil discord in China has not yet given way, though it is hoped daily that an agreement between the two factions may be reached that will put that mighty empire, with all its immense potentialities, in line with the best political development of our time.

But in spite of the discouragement of these gloomy events, which are the outcome of causes which for ages have been at work, and formerly with more deadly and widespread effect than now, the great movement which is undermining injustice and war and hastening their doom is going steadily on and deepening and widening. It is stronger at the opening of this year of grace than any living man has ever before seen it; and, busy as the devil is, nothing can stay for long its triumphant march. In this great and splendid hope let us work with all energy, and make this the mightiest twelvemonth for good-will, justice, and peace that has ever gone into the chronicles of the race.

### The Nobel Peace Prize of 1911.

Following their usual custom of awarding the Nobel Peace Prize on the anniversary of the birth of its founder, the committee of the Norwegian Parliament which administers the fund announced on the 10th of December that they had selected as laureates for the year 1911 Professor T. M. C. Asser, of The Hague, and Alfred H. Fried, of Vienna, formerly of Berlin. Each of the laureates received about \$19,500, the entire sum awarded being yearly about \$39,000.

This is the eleventh time this important prize has been awarded. The recipients of it have been for the most part leading peace workers of the European countries—Sir William Randal Cremer, Frederic Passy,

Henry Dunant, Baroness Von Suttner, Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, Professor Louis Renault, E. T. Moneta, Elie Ducommun, Dr. A. Gobat, Auguste Beer-naert, Fredrik Bajer, and K. P. Arnoldson. Besides these, President Roosevelt was awarded the prize at the close of the Russo-Japanese war, and two societies, the Institute of International Law and the International Peace Bureau, have been recipients of it.

All the pacifists, we are sure, are well pleased with the action of the Norwegian committee in awarding the prize for 1911 to Mr. Asser and Mr. Fried.

Professor Asser is one of the foremost public men of the Netherlands, indeed of Europe. He is professor of international law in the University, a member of the State Council, of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, and an experienced arbitrator. He was the founder of the Institute of International Law in 1873. He was a member of both the Hague conferences in 1899 and 1907, and was universally acknowledged to be one of the seven or eight most influential men in those gatherings.

Mr. Fried is one of the best-known figures in the International Peace Congresses, in which he always takes an active and intelligent part. He is a live and incessant worker wherever he is. In the German-speaking countries—Germany and Austria, for he belongs to both—he has only two or three peers, and no superior, excepting always Baroness Bertha von Suttner. He has written two or three valuable books on the peace movement, and a number of pamphlets, which have been much used and influential in peace propaganda work. His contributions to the German papers have also been frequent and valuable. His chief work for some years has been through the ably conducted "Friedens-Warte," of which he is the editor, and in which he is associated at Vienna with the Baroness Von Suttner, the founder of the journal.

Mr. Fried has the warmest congratulations of his many co-workers and friends in all countries.

### The Special Meeting of the American Peace Society.

The special meeting of the American Peace Society, announced in the November and December issues of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*, met at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., December 8, at 10 o'clock A. M.

In the absence of the president, Judge Robert F. Raymond, of Massachusetts, was called to the chair.

The subject of the reorganization of the Society, with the view of federating through it the various local peace societies of the country, was explained and carefully considered. Certain changes in the Constitution, suggested by the executive committee in order to meet the new situation, were presented and discussed in detail. The proposed financial relation between the Carnegie Endowment and the Society in case such federation should be consummated, was also laid before the meeting.

After extended discussion of the whole subject, it was unanimously voted that the general plan of reorganiza-